

## **Senate Joint Resolution No. 5**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 114**

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 25, 2003.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**SJR 5, Sher. Giant Sequoia National Monument.**

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take necessary action to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting the removal of large trees in all parts of the monument and encouraging environmentally appropriate management activities, including removal of small trees and brush, that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect rural communities, and restore the giant sequoia ecosystem in all parts of the monument, as set forth in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the monument.

WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument was established on April 15, 2000, by a Presidential Proclamation duly executed under the Antiquities Act; and

WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a diverse landscape containing groves of majestic giant sequoia, the largest trees in the world and the sentinel trees of the Sierra Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is home to numerous species of wildlife including Pacific fisher, black bear, California spotted owl, mountain lion, peregrine falcon, and great grey owl; and

WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the only known trees large enough to provide nesting habitat for the endangered California condor and remain available as potential habitat for this species; and

WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have lived, and rank among the world's longest lived trees, reaching ages greater than 3,200 years; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have lived for more than 8,000 years in the Sierra, with archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and pictographs evident within the monument; and

WHEREAS, The Presidential Proclamation of April 15, 2000, established a monument boundary of 327,769 acres to be managed by the United States Forest Service for the purposes of protecting the whole of the giant sequoia ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, The proclamation prohibited commercial timber harvesting within the monument and, except for personal firewood, limited the removal of trees to ecological restoration and maintenance of public safety; and

WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has ignored this direction in preparing a management plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument; and

WHEREAS, Nothing in the proclamation diminishes the jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, The adverse environmental consequences of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's proposed draft environmental impact statement, if adopted, far outweigh the protections of the giant sequoia ecosystem provided in the existing Sierra Framework and the Presidential Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to protect the giant sequoia ecosystem as required by Presidential Proclamation; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting the removal of large trees in all parts of the monument and encouraging environmentally appropriate management activities, including the removal of small trees and brush, that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect rural communities, and restore the giant sequoia ecosystem, as set forth in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the monument; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members of the Congress of the United States, and to the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

